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The President's Daily Brief

August 14, 1976

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Table of Contents

Lebanon: The fall of Tall Zatar has touched off heavy artillery firing along Beirut's confrontation lines and the beginning of possible reprisal activity. The Christian-controlled radio claims troops from Iraq began landing at Tyre on Thursday. *(Page 1)*

Egypt-Libya: Egypt's lone marine infantry brigade apparently is moving to the Libyan border. *(Page 4)*

Libya: The latest satellite photography shows Scud surface-to-surface missile equipment in Libya. *(Page 5)*

Zambia-Rhodesia: Zambia's army has started to provide more direct support for guerrillas infiltrating Rhodesia. *(Page 5)*

Mozambique-Rhodesia: Since the Rhodesian raid into Mozambique earlier this week, President Machel may feel compelled to accept a Cuban offer to send troops to Mozambique. *(Page 6)*

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Germany: Although the East Germans yesterday turned back West Germans hoping to travel to West Berlin, East and West German leaders have privately reassured each other that they wish to reduce tensions. *(Page 7)*

Greece-Turkey:

Notes: South Africa; USSR-Portugal *(Page 10)*

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Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/05 : CIA-RDP79T00024A000200010012-1

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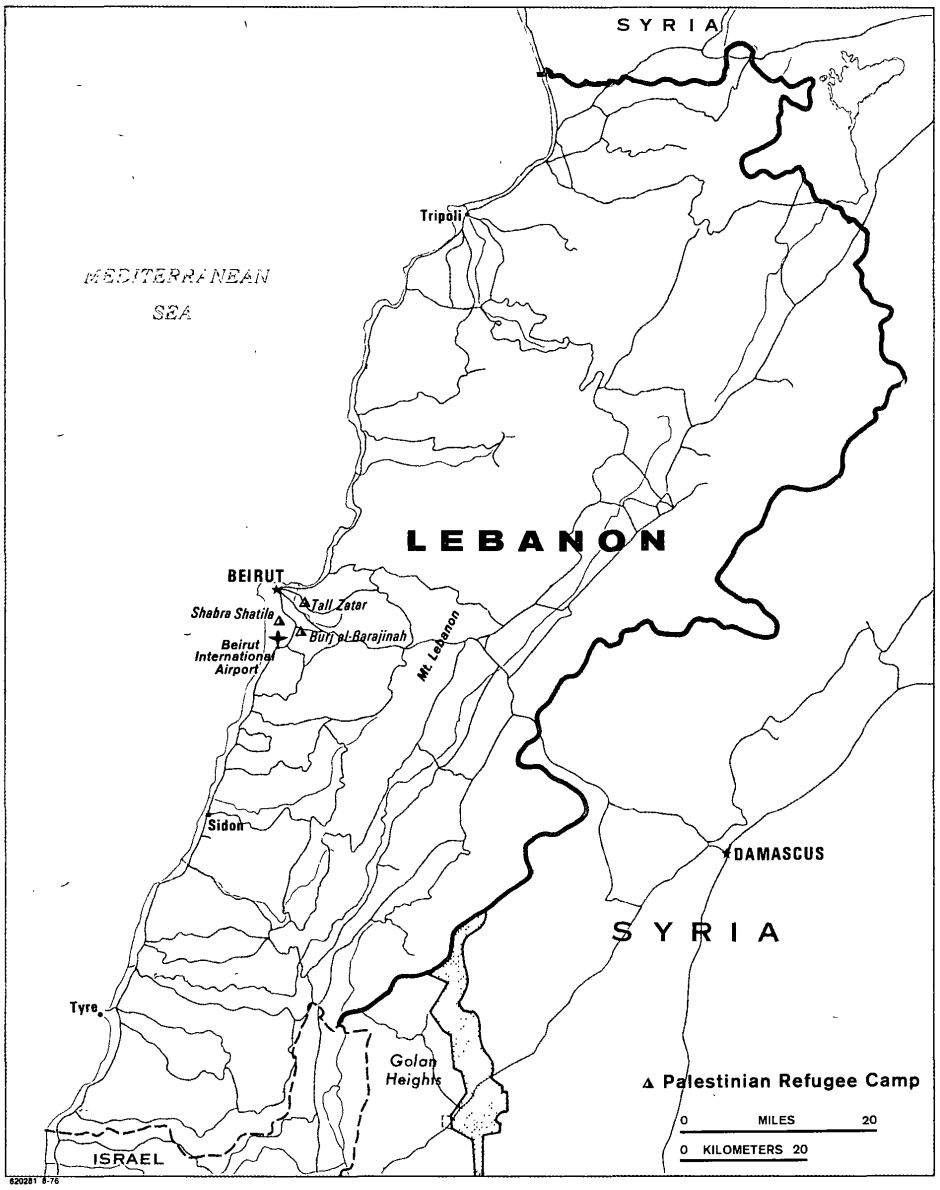

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LEBANON: *The fall of Tall Zatar has touched off heavy artillery firing along Beirut's confrontation lines and the beginning of possible reprisal activity.*

The assault came as Arab League and Red Cross negotiators were in the midst of discussing evacuation plans. Palestinian charges that the Shamunists moved under cover of a Red Cross convoy are probably true. About 12,000 people nevertheless managed to get out of the camp--8,000 to the Muslim-held area of Beirut in truck convoys hastily organized by both Red Cross and Arab League forces, 3,000 to the Christian part of the city in Red Cross vehicles, and another thousand on foot to the Muslim side. 50X1

Phalangist leaders actively cooperated with Red Cross and Arab League efforts to ensure the safety of the camp's inhabitants. Stories of atrocities are nevertheless widespread throughout Beirut, and at least some of them undoubtedly are true. The Phalanges Party itself has admitted the deaths of 10 refugees. The chief Red Cross representative in Beirut has announced that at least 10 nurses have been killed and 50 others are unaccounted for.

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The stories have already begun to spark leftist reprisals. Members of one extreme leftist party, possibly in conjunction with members of Fatah, surrounded several city blocks in west Beirut and conducted a house-to-house search, apparently in an effort to track down Christians supposedly associated with massacres at Tall Zatar.

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With the fall of Tall Zatar, the Christians are expected to turn their attention to Palestinian strongholds in the mountains east of Beirut.

the Palestinians have agreed to evacuate the area through negotiations; the Shamunists are skeptical, but are willing to wait for a while.

The Shamunists adamantly oppose any kind of political compromise at present, reasoning that the result--the presence of armed Palestinians in Lebanon--would constitute an unstable situation that would erupt into fresh fighting within two or three years. Some leaders of the Phalanges Party are apparently more amenable to a negotiated settlement, but the Shamunists believe they can persuade the Phalangists to continue the fight. The Shamunists are in a position to overturn a cease-fire they do not accept.

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The Christian-controlled radio claimed yesterday that 2,100 members of Iraq's Popular Army--the ruling Baath Party's militia--began landing at the port of Tyre on Thursday.

We cannot confirm that such a large contingent of Iraqi militiamen has arrived in Lebanon, and the numbers may be exaggerated, but we have had frequent indications over the last several weeks of Iraqis fighting there.

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The Christians have also charged that "hundreds" of Algerians arrived by ship in Sidon yesterday. We have no other evidence of Algerians being sent to Lebanon, and tend to believe that the Christians are referring to Palestinian volunteers recruited in Algiers. These volunteers have also been sent to Egypt for onward transport.

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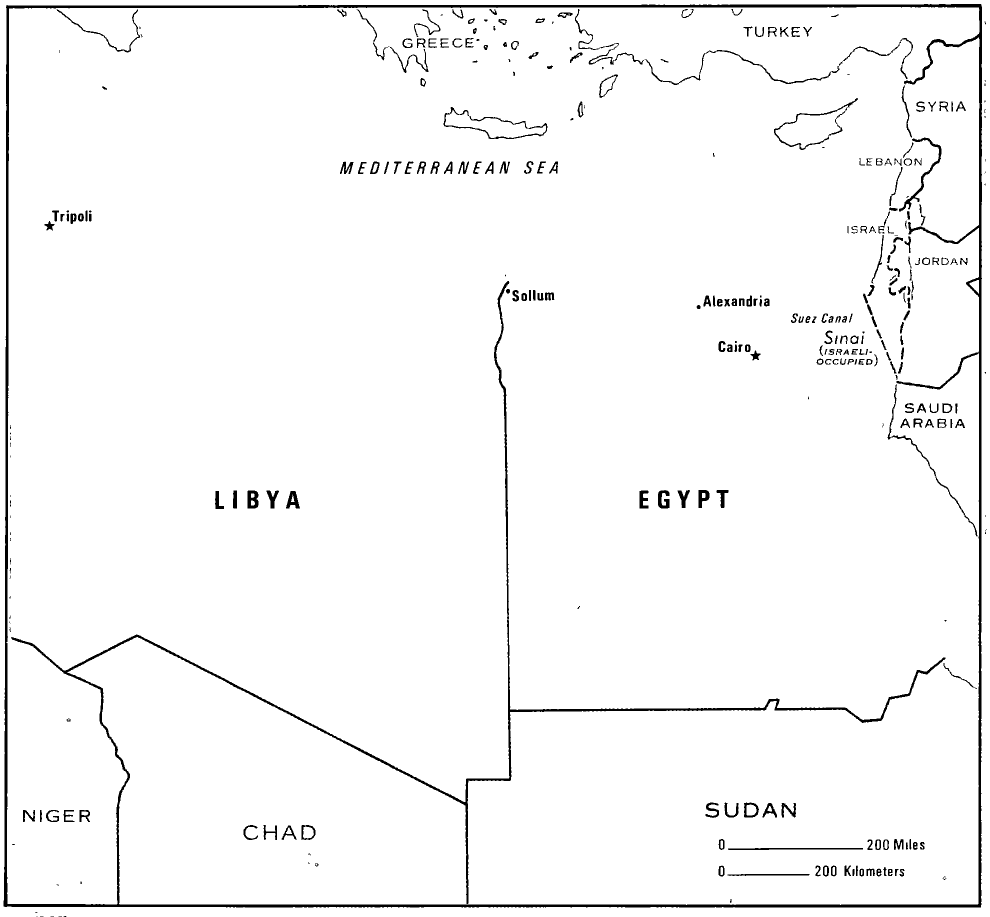

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The Israelis are unlikely to be deflected from their long-standing policy of non-intervention by the arrival of Iraqi units.

Israel probably would expect these troops to move north to support the Palestinian and leftist forces there. The Israelis, however, could be counted on to step up their aerial and naval surveillance of the Lebanese coast around Tyre. Israeli naval vessels may also be placed on increased alert status to interdict and search any foreign ships found in Israeli territorial waters that are suspected of carrying munitions or troops to support the Palestinians.

* * *

EGYPT-LIBYA: *Egypt's lone marine infantry brigade apparently is in the process of moving from its home garrison in Alexandria to the Libyan border.*

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the brigade is to arrive in the Sollum area by this Tuesday. Although the 3,000-man unit may be used in a 50X1 conventional role, it would also be useful for amphibious landings in Libya

The deployment of the brigade to the border may presage further movement of Egyptian troops to the area. For the past two days, the Cairo radio and press have reported that Egyptian armored, infantry, airborne, and air defense units are moving to the border.

Recent satellite photography shows that Egypt has already built up its air defenses there, but as of late last month, few ground force units were detected in the area.

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LIBYA: *The latest satellite photography shows what appears to be equipment for the Scud surface-to-surface missile system in Libya.*

The equipment was seen [redacted] 50X1 about 60 kilometers (35 miles) southwest of Tripoli. Libya probably has enough Scud equipment to outfit at least one brigade of nine missile launchers.

The USSR has also supplied Scuds to Egypt, Syria, and Iraq. These 290-kilometer (160-mile) missiles probably are equipped with conventional high-explosive warheads, although they can carry nuclear as well as chemical warheads. The Soviets are unlikely to have provided such munitions to any of the Middle East countries.

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ZAMBIA-RHODESIA: *Zambia's army has begun providing more direct support for Rhodesian guerrillas infiltrating northwestern Rhodesia from bases in Zambia.*

[redacted] The 50X1 guerrillas are probably members of Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union who have deserted 50X1 guerrilla camps in Mozambique dominated by a rival faction.

[redacted] President Kaunda will probably restrict Zambia's military involvement in hopes of avoiding Rhodesian retaliatory raids. 50X1

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MOZAMBIQUE-RHODESIA:
The highly publicized retaliatory raid by Rhodesian security forces into Mozambique earlier this week has put Mozambican President Machel on the spot. He will feel compelled to consider new ways, including the possible use of Cuban troops, to provide his country with a more effective defense.

Rhodesia claims 300 guerrillas and some 30 Mozambican troops were killed and that there were no Rhodesian army casualties. Mozambique claimed yesterday that the Rhodesians had killed over 600 civilians.

Mozambican forces quickly retaliated with a series of mortar attacks against the Rhodesian border town of Umtali and nearby military camps. Nevertheless, the Rhodesian raid points up the weaknesses in Mozambique's image as the key front-line African state supporting the Rhodesian insurgency. 50X1

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GERMANY: *The East Germans yesterday turned back a number of West Germans hoping to travel to West Berlin.*

Most of the West Germans planned to attend a rally last night protesting the Wall. East German and Soviet officials argued that the rally would violate agreements pertaining to West Berlin. 50X1

The East Germans' stoppage of the travelers, which probably is only temporary, violates the East-West German transit agreement; the action also impinges on the Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin. The interdiction of traffic on the transit routes is the first since mid-1974, when East Berlin protested the establishment of a federal environmental office in West Berlin.

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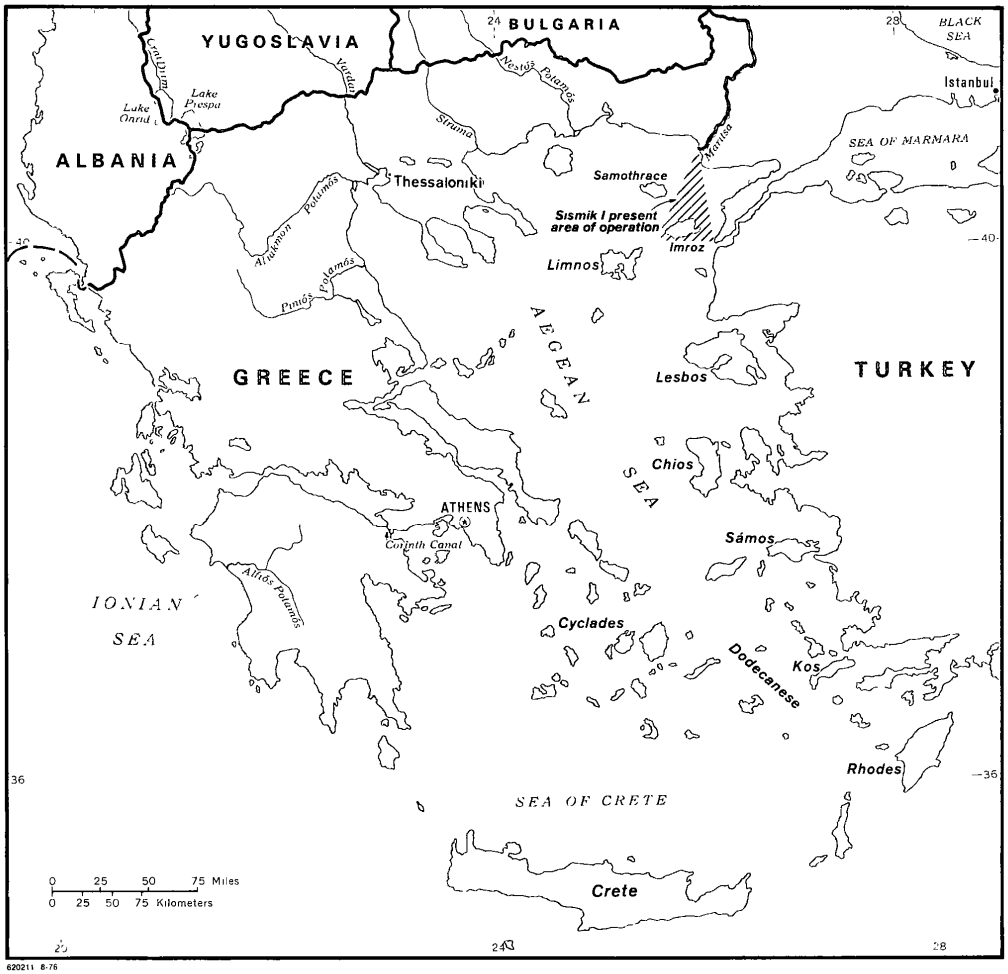

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the decision to turn back buses carrying the protesters will create problems for Bonn. The Social Democratic - Free Democratic coalition is locked in a tight electoral contest with the Christian Democrats, who are trying to exploit the deteriorating political situation. 50X1

Indeed, the rally last night to protest the Wall was sponsored by the Christian Democrats' youth organization. The Schmidt government, anticipating an East German reaction, had tried to persuade the Christian Democrats to tone down the demonstration.

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GREECE-TURKEY:

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NOTES

South Africa

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Soviet

Portuguese

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko would like to stop in Lisbon for two days on his way to the UN General Assembly session in October.

Soares

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does not want a Soviet to be the first important leader to visit Portugal after the elections, preferring to have a West European leader come first. Gromyko's visit could be advantageous, however, if it served to placate the Portuguese Communist Party.

From Moscow's point of view, Gromyko's visit would reaffirm the Soviets' desire to maintain ties to Portugal, despite Soares' policy of stressing development of relations with the West. The Soviets are probably still hoping the Socialists will eventually form a united front with the Communists, but in the meantime appear to be trying to make the best of the existing situation.

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